



SERVICE CENTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Morrow County FSA

PO Box 786

Heppner, OR 97836

541-676-9011 x 2 (phone)

541-676-9624 (fax)

Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am—4:30 pm

County Committee

Chair: Todd Lindsay—LAA 2

Vice Chair: Tim Rust—LAA 1

Member: Anne Morter—LAA 3

Staff

Lorrie Fox

Adam Doherty

Bobbette Lovgren

Director

Darcy Vial

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NOVEMBER 2008

FSA UPDATES

Farm Bill Informational Meetings

<u>- Heppner -</u> Morrow FSA Office 430 Linden Way Heppner, OR Tuesday, December 9 9:00 am - Noon	<u>- Lone -</u> Lone Grange W. Main Street Lone, OR Wednesday, December 10 9:00 am—Noon	<u>- Boardman -</u> BMCC Classroom 300 NE Front Boardman, OR Thursday, December 11 9:00 am—Noon
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Note: If additional time is needed, FSA staff will be available after noon to answer add't questions.

2009 EQIP Application Deadline

Sign ups for USDA cost share programs are still being taken. Local farmers and ranchers interested in financial and technical assistance for conservation measures on their working lands can apply for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for federal fiscal year 2009.

"EQIP is a voluntary conservation program to help farmers and ranchers improve and enhance the condition of water, soil, and other natural resources on private working lands," says Tom Bennett, District Conservationist. "The program is designed to help producers protect the resources that support their operations and contribute to environmental quality for the overall community. We also have the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program specifically for improving wildlife habitat with similar sign up criteria"

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts applications for EQIP and WHIP year-round. Funding decisions, however, are made at

cutoff points during the year, with the current ranking period closing on **November 15**.

Applications that address local conservation priorities are evaluated and ranked for funding. Priority applications may address issues like rangeland health with cross fences and livestock water, cropland erosion and soil and water quality with reduced tillage and improved nutrient management, water efficiency with improved irrigation systems and forest health with thinning or tree planting. Other issues and practices may also be eligible. The number of successful applications will be based on ranking and available funding. Beginning farmers and ranchers and limited resource farmers have increased emphasis in the new farm bill and are encouraged to apply.

Interested parties should contact the Heppner USDA-NRCS service center located at 430 Linden Way to apply.



Release of Information

Recent FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) guidelines now require the Morrow FSA office to obtain written permission before releasing information to any individual who is not directly connected to a particular farm (owner/operator/other producer).

If you have a need to release information (maps, acreage reports, etc.) to other individuals (ex. potential operator, spray applicator, realtor) the FSA office has to have a request in writing before releasing any information.

Written requests can be submitted by fax, email, mail or in person. A phone call **is not** an acceptable form of notification. Thank you for understanding....this is to protect our producer's privacy.

Requests must include: Who is submitting the request, who is to receive information, what type of information can be released, and how long the request is valid.

NAP Coverage Deadline — Dec. 1st

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. Eligible producers must meet conservation compliance, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and payment limitation requirements.

NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to Dec. 1, 2008 for those crops whose insurance deadlines were prior to Dec. 1, 2008

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new

CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

1. Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

2. File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact the Morrow County FSA office.

Reminder: NAP is available for pasture and rangeland!



December 1, 2008

NAP Coverage Deadline

To be eligible for crop and livestock disaster programs, all farm acreage must be insured through Federal Crop Insurance or NAP!

Committee Elections—Ballots Due Dec. 1, 2008

Candidates have been nominated for Morrow County's FSA Committee election.

Ballots will be mailed to known eligible voters the first of November.

You will be voting from the selection of candidates for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 ... **HEPPNER, LEXINGTON,** and the **SOUTHEASTERN** areas of Morrow County. If your primary agriculture interest is in this area and you believe you should have received a ballot, call our office.

VOTE FOR ONLY ONE choice and **SIGN THE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE** where indicated.

UNSIGNED BALLOTS ARE NOT VALID.

If you are voting as a representative of an entity, you must have signature authority and include the **BY** or **FOR** in your signature. Spouses can not sign for each other.

To assist you in voting, the following are biographies of this year's candidates. All candidates have indicated they are willing to serve if elected.

Todd Lindsay

Todd resides in Heppner and is currently serving as the 2008 Morrow COC Chairperson. Todd grows wheat, garlic, mint and other specialty crops with his family.

Mail your ballot back (postmarked Dec 1st or earlier) or drop it by our office by 4:30 pm on Dec 1st.



**December 1, 2008
COC Ballots Due**

**Make your vote
count!**

DCP & CRP Final Payments

Enrolled producers had their final direct payment and CRP annual payments deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct pay-

ment received their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically sub-

tract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments and/or Annual CRP payments you are about to receive.

If you have any questions about your October payments, please feel free to contact the office.

**Has your banking
account information
changed?
Don't forget to let
the FSA office
know!**

Morrow County Disaster Designation

On October 3, 2008, Morrow County received a Secretarial Disaster Designation as a contiguous county from Edward Schaefer, Secretary of Agriculture. This declaration allows eligible Morrow County producers to receive Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Payments for farm revenue losses sustained during the 2008 crop year. Umatilla, Gilliam, and contiguous counties in the state of Washington have also received disaster designations.

Software and regulations for the SURE program have not been developed yet, and the Morrow County FSA office does not anticipate their availability until early 2009. Producers will be notified when SURE sign-up begins. If you have any questions about your eligibility for SURE, or other USDA Farm Service Agency programs, please do not hesitate to call the Morrow County FSA office at 541-676-9011 ext. 2.

**USDA – FARM SERVICE AGENCY
MORROW COUNTY OFFICE
PO BOX 786
HEPPNER, OR 97836**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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STANDARD
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PERMIT NO 71**

Dates to Remember:

- November 11 Veteran's Day—Office Closed
- November 15 EQIP Deadline
- November 28 Thanksgiving—Office Closed
- December 1 COC Ballots must be returned in person or postmarked to FSA
- December 1 2009 NAP Coverage Deadline
- December 9 Farm Bill Info Meeting—Heppner
- December 10 Farm Bill Info Meeting—lone
- December 11 Farm Bill Info Meeting—Boardman

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).



**Morrow COC Area #2
(Heppner/Lexington)**

**Watch your mail for your
COC Ballot!**

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

eGov is available on-line: Producers have the ability to apply for program assistance via their home computers. Interested producers must first obtain a level 2 clearance before using this system. You can register online at www.egov.usda.gov or you can visit our office to obtain the required Level 2 authority. Once this is done, your ID is verified by the FSA office, and your account is activated, you can go on-line to do USDA business. Level 2 authority will allow you access to: Loan Deficiency Program, Direct & Counter Cyclical Payment Program, Farm Loan Program, Financial Services, and your personal Customer Payment Statements.